

NEWS RELEASE
DATE: July 20, 1999

FEDERAL AWARDS GRANTED FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL PROJECTS

In a continuing effort to create a cleaner environment in Utah, the U.S. Department of Energy recently awarded two local agencies and one private company grants totaling \$314,000 to fund alternative transportation fuel projects. The three recipients were the Salt Lake City International Airport, Jordan School District and Flower Patch, Inc. The projects signify a collaborative effort in conjunction with the Salt Lake City Clean Cities Coalition, a grassroots partnership formed to promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles.

Flower Patch, a private corporation, will receive funds to help replace its entire delivery fleet of 15 older, high mileage vehicles with 15 factory-built compressed natural gas (CNG) cargo vans. The CNG vans will run only on natural gas. Flower Patch has used CNG in the past, said Tom Gordon, fleet manager for Flower Patch, Inc.

“We didn’t give up on the use of alternative fuel vehicles. It paid off in the long run,” Gordon said. He called receiving the DOE grant to create a 100 percent alternative fuel fleet “a remarkable accomplishment.” Flower Patch is a stakeholder in the Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition.

This same dedication and commitment to alternative fuel vehicles will be displayed by the Salt Lake City Airport’s project. Steve Jackson, Airport Fleet Management Analyst, commented that the “Salt Lake City Airport is dedicated to the use of alternative fuel vehicles, in particular natural gas.” The airport plans to use its grant money to build a “public access” CNG refueling station that will be available to other companies as well as the general public. The airport project is planned to be completed by the fall of 1999.

The third grant will be awarded to the Jordan School District to purchase eight new CNG John Deere school buses, as well as two reconditioned CNG converted school buses. These acquisitions are a major step in the District’s alternative fuel conversion plan, said Steve Woods, director of Transportation, and will nearly double the size of Jordan’s alternative fuel bus fleet.

For more information, contact: Beverly Miller, director, Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition, 535-7736